GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANAGA REJUVENATION
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:847
ANSWERED ON:21.07.2016
Depletion in Ground Water
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Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANAGA REJUVENATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether a study conducted jointly by ASSOCHAM and Skyment Weather Services has warned that India is drying out which may lead to Latur like water crisis in many parts of the country, if so, the salient features of the study;
(b) the reaction of the Government thereon;
(c) whether the Government proposes to take any concrete steps to conserve water and also to check its wasteful use, if so, the details thereof; and
(d) the future course of action envisaged by the Government to tackle the situation?

Answer

THE HON'BLE MINISTER OF STATE FOR WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION (DR. SANJEEV KUMAR BALYAN)

(a) & (b) ASSOCHAM and Skyment Weather Services have jointly carried out a study on 'Managing Climate Risk in Agriculture', wherein, it was pointed out that there is an increase in the mean annual air temperature in many regions of the Country. As per the report, prominent increase has been observed in the number of hot days and daily temperatures from 1951 to 2013. It has also been stated that overall temperature has been increasing while the all India Monsoon rainfall has been decreasing from 1960 onwards.

To combat the changing climatic conditions, Government is actively promoting the concept of water conservation, artificial recharge and rainwater harvesting.

(c) & (d) Central Government has taken following measures to conserve ground water and check its wasteful use:
i. The National Water Policy (2012) formulated by Ministry of Water Resources, RD & GR, inter-alia, advocates conservation, promotion and protection of water and highlights the need for augmenting the availability of water through rain water harvesting, direct use of rainfall, recycle and reuse of water and other management measures. The National Water Policy (2012) has been forwarded to all State/UT Governments for adoption.
ii. "Master Plan for Artificial Recharge to Ground Water in India" has been prepared, which envisages construction of different types of Artificial Recharge and Rainwater Harvesting structures in the Country.
iii. Special focus is given through Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) for water conservation and water harvesting structures to augment ground water. In addition, priority has been given for construction of farm ponds in the year 2016-17 to harvest rain water.
iv. The Ministry has circulated a Model Bill to all the States/UTs to enable them to enact suitable ground water legislation for its regulation and development which includes provision of rain water harvesting.
v. Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) has undertaken the Demonstrative Rain Water Harvesting and Artificial Recharge Projects during XI Plan under the Scheme of "Ground Water Management & Regulation", in priority areas.
vi. CGWB has taken up Aquifer Mapping and Management programme during XII Plan, under the scheme of Ground Water Management and Regulation.
vii. This Ministry has also launched 'Jal Kranti Abhiyan' (2015-16 to 2017-18) in order to consolidate water conservation and management in the Country through a holistic and integrated approach involving all stakeholders, making it a mass movement. 'Jal Gram Yojana' component of 'Jal Kranti Abhiyan' envisages selection of two villages in every district, preferably 'over-exploited' or facing acute water scarcity, as 'Jal Grams' to ensure optimum and sustainable utilization of water.
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